REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that Claims 1 through 24 are pending in the

application and the Examiner rejected all claims.

Claim Rejections, 35 U.S.C. §103

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-6, 8-10, and 12-23 under 35

U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,950,990 to Rajarajan et al. in view of

U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0093537 to Bocioned et al.

The Present Invention

The present invention concerns a web-based graphical user interface (GUI) for provisioning

hardware resources in a computer network. In one exemplary implementation, the GUI includes

various pages for display. Each page includes a first area containing a graphical workflow indicator

that provides an ordered list of user-selectable tasks associated with performing provisioning

remotely located computer hardware resources to integrate the resources into a computer network.

Each page also includes a second area containing display information and/or parameter fields

associated with a particular one of the user-selectable tasks. Accordingly, when a particular one of

the user-selectable tasks is selected from the first area, the display information and/or parameter

fields necessary to complete operations associated with the particular one of the user-selectable tasks

are presented in the second area. For example, if a user is provisioning a new server, and wishes to

set up a link for integrating the new server into a computer network, an ordered list of user tasks

appears in the first area, the tasks being related to integrating the new server. Examples of tasks include connection parameters, routing parameters, order parameters, and administrative parameters. Once a user selects one of the tasks, a new set of fields is displayed in the second area. For example, if a user selected connection parameters, a series of new fields relating to connection parameters would appear in the second area. Examples of new fields includes Connection Rate, Connection Shape, Protection Type, and location information. Once a user has completed all the tasks, a summary of the tasks is shown to the user, and the user can submit all the information, effectively linking the new server to the network.

U.S. Patent No. 6,950,990 to Rajarajan et al.

U.S. Patent No. 6,950,990 to Rajarajan et al. ("Rajarajan") teaches a method and system for displaying information related to a plurality of resources in a network environment. In accordance with one embodiment, a method is employed in a computer system for selecting the visual arrangement of workspaces and modules in a network management console GUI. The console includes a first zone and a second zone. The method involves receiving a list of workspace names and, in response, displaying an explorer tool including the list of workspace names in the first zone. Upon indication from a user that a first workspace name from the list of workspace names has been selected, a first workspace associated with the first workspace name is displayed in the second zone. Once displayed in the second zone, a network administrator can access information relating to the workspace, including registered users for the workspace, as well as any additional network resources the workspace can access.

U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0093537 to Bocioned et al.

U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0093537 to Bocioned et al. ("Bocioned") teaches a web page navigation system for sequential task oriented processes, workflow management and user specific processes. A network (Internet, Intranet or other network) compatible user interface system supports a process including a sequence of subtasks. The system initiates display of a composite window representing a plurality of overlaid tabbed web page (or application) windows each including a visible tab incorporating an identifier identifying a function provided by a web page or application window associated with a particular subtask of the sequence of subtasks. The visible tabs and corresponding overlaid tabbed windows are sequentially ordered in accordance with the sequence of subtasks. The system initiates display of a subtask web page or application window in the foreground of the composite window in response to user selection of a visible tab corresponding to the subtask web page or application window.

The Examiner Has Not Established a *Prima Facie* Case of Obviousness

As set forth in the MPEP:

> To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. MPEP 2143

The Examiner has failed to establish a prima facie case of obvious as the cited references fail to teach or suggest all the claim limitations. Specifically, the present claims recite provisioning, or linking, hardware resources in order to organize the hardware resources into a computer network through an interactive GUI. By utilizing the interactive GUI of the present invention, a network administrator can provision hardware resources (e.g., two remotely located servers) resulting in both servers being organized into a network. The GUI provides a user with any necessary information and tools required for provisioning the hardware resources. This allows the network administrator to organize the hardware resources efficiently from a centralized location. Providing an interactive GUI for provisioning hardware resources for organizing the hardware resources into a network distinguishes the presently claimed invention as non-obvious over the cited prior art.

Rajarajan discloses an improved GUI for providing a network administrator access to user information and resources relating to a computer network. The administrator can access and update a user's personal information, information relating to a user's workspace, such as where on the network a user's workstation is located, what printer resources the workstation has access to, etc. By providing a series of related windows in the GUI, Rajarajan provides an easy to understand management tool for monitoring any known workspace on a managed network.

However, and in contrast to the presently claimed invention, nothing in Rajarajan teaches or suggests provisioning hardware resources into a network. Provisioning hardware resources into a computer network as in the present invention is not the same as monitoring workspaces and altering information related to the workspaces and their respective users, as in Rajarajan. As defined in the specification of the present invention, provisioning relates to specifying an array of information to

enable two network elements to be linked. See, page 1 lines 14-16 of the specification." Rajarajan is merely managing information related to these network elements that already are in the network and has nothing to do with linking the elements within a network infrastructure. The Examiner cites col. 15, lines 2-11 as teaching provisioning in a network. However, this portion of Rajarajan has nothing to do with provisioning, but instead continues the general theme of Rajarajan, specifically that the GUI taught by Rajarajan is used to access and change (if necessary) user and user workspace related information, not hardware provisioning information.

Column 15 goes on to illustrate several examples of how the GUI of Rajarajan can be used. One example is to access a user's personal information page relating to unique personal information data such as job title, name, home address, employee number, etc. A second example is when an email server and a user's workspace are operably attached. The GUI can be used to access information related to a user's email address, what their email restrictions may be (such as mailbox size, attachment restrictions), as well as pointers to code on the email server that indicate how a particular user's email is handled. What Rajarajan fails to teach is provisioning, or linking, hardware resources as specifically claimed in the present application.

The addition of Bocioned does not provide the missing teachings or suggestions. In fact, Bocioned is directed toward sequential task oriented processes and workflow management. Bocioned is completely silent on the idea of provisioning of hardware resources in a computer network. The claims specifically recite these novel elements, neither taught nor suggested by the cited art, as exemplified by independent Claim 1, quoted below with underlining indicating at least some of the recitations of the claim not found in the cited prior art:

One or more computer-readable media comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed, direct a computer to:

display Web-based pages on a display device, each Web-based display page comprising:

a first area containing a graphical workflow indicator that provides an ordered list of user-selectable tasks <u>associated with performing provisioning hardware resources in order to integrate said computer hardware resources into a network</u>; and

a second area containing display information and/or parameter fields associated with a particular one of the user-selectable tasks, such that when a particular one of the user-selectable tasks is selected from the first area, information and/or parameter fields necessary to complete operations associated with the particular one of the user-selectable tasks are presented in the second area.

The other independent claims include similar recitations and therefore distinguish over the cited prior art for at least all of the same reasons as claim 1.

Conclusion

The present invention is not taught or suggested by the prior art. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the claims. An early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 19-5425.

Respectfully submitted,

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